

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE COMMITTEE OF 14 SHURA DELEGATES FORMED TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK OVER THE ON SETTING UP AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT REPORTED TO THE FULL SHURA FEB 23. THEY PROPOSED THAT THE FULL SHURA ALLOCATE THE TOP SEVEN POSITIONS IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO THE SEVEN ALLIANCE LEADERS ON THE BASIS OF A SECRET BALLOT. THE VOTE WAS TO TAKE PLACE LATER ON FEBRUARY 26. END SUMMARY.

3. THE COMMITTEE OF 14 SHURA DELEGATES WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING SINCE FEBRUARY 20 TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK OVER THE NOMINATION OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT FOR FREE AFGHANISTAN PRESENTED THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FULL SHURA THIS MORNING.

[WORDS EXCISED]

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4. [WORDS EXCISED] THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE WILL BE USED: EACH SHURA DELEGATE IS TO BE GIVEN A

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 04349
E.O. 12066: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AFEL, AF, -A
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 14 RECOMMENDS VOTE BY FULL SHURA
REF: ISLAMABAD 04188

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TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

BALLOT WITH THE PICTURES AND NAMES OF THE SEVEN LEADERS ON IT. EACH DELEGATE VOTES FOR TWO OF THE SEVEN BY CIRCLING THE APPROPRIATE PICTURES. [ILLEG] EACH PRESUMABLY WILL CAST ONE VOTE FOR HIS OWN PARTY LEADER AND ONE OF THE OTHERS).

5. WHEN THE BALLOTS ARE COUNTED, THE LEADER WITH THE TOP NUMBER OF VOTES WILL BECOME THE ACTING HEAD OF STATE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ALLIANCE SUPREME COUNCIL UNTIL ELECTIONS CAN BE ORGANIZED INSIDE AFGHANISTAN. THE SECOND HIGHEST VOTE-GETTER WILL BECOME DEFENSE MINISTER, THE FOURTH, INTERIOR MINISTER, ETC. [EXCISED]
[WORDS EXCISED] CLEAR ON WHAT THE FULL LIST OF SEVEN POSITIONS WAS).

6. [WORDS EXCISED] CLAIMED THAT THE SEVEN PARTY LEADERS HAD COMMITTED THEMSELVES IN ADVANCE TO ACCEPT WHATEVER THE COMMITTEE OF 14 RECOMMENDED. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT THE LEADERS COULD HAVE FOUND SOME WAY TO WIGGLE OUT OF THE PROPOSAL IF THEY HAD FOUND IT TOO HARD TO SWALLOW. THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENT, HOWEVER, ALMOST CERTAINLY APPEALED TO THEM,, SINCE IT PRESERVES THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR AT LEAST THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. (END COMMENT.)

7. [WORDS EXCISED] TELL US THAT THE VOTING OF THE FULL SHURA IS GOING ON NOW, AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 23. A CONTACT WITHIN AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (THE OFFICIAL SHURA PRESS OUTLET) SAID THE FINAL DECISION MIGHT NOT BE MADE PUBLIC BEFORE FEBRUARY 24, ALTHOUGH WE WILL, OF COURSE TRY TO FIND OUT EARLIER). HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT OVER 400 OF THE 440 SHURA DELEGATES WERE PRESENT IN THE HALL AT THE HAJ CENTER THIS MORNING WHEN THE COMMITTEE OF 14 MADE ITS REPORT. LATEST WORD, ACCORDING TO THE AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, IS THAT THERE WILL BE A PRESS BRIEFING AT THE SHURA SITE AT 1900 FEBRUARY 23. CARLEY

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